

Message Text

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50/6542

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /022 W

----- 090744

R 080926Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO COMIDEASTFOR

INFO USS VALDEZ

SECSTATE WASHDC 3534

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 2296

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 3 LINE 23)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : MASS, TC, US

SUBJECT : OJT FOR ADDF NAVAL FORCES

REF: USS VALDEZ 011722Z NOV . 75 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY FULLY CONCURS IN VALDEZ ASSESSMENT REFTEL THAT RECENTLY COMPLETED OJT EXERCISE INVOLVING VALDEZ AND FOUR OFFICERS AND TWELVE MEN FROM THE ABU DHABI DEFENSE FORCE (ADDF) NAVAL FORCE (NF) WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. THIS VIEW BASED NOT ONLY ON INITIAL COMMENTS WHEN OJT PARTY FIRST RETURNED, BUT ALSO DETAILED DISCUSSION OF EXERCISE NOV. 6 WITH CMDR TARIQ KHAN, DEPUTY COMMANDER NF, WHO HIMSELF PARTICIPATED IN OJT.

2. FROM MILITARY POINT OF VIEW, CMDR TARIQ FELT THAT ONE-TO-ONE RELATIONSHIP THAT HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR ALL MEMBERS NF CONTINGENT WITH US NAVY COUNTERPARTS ON BOARD VALDES AND HANDS-ON CONCEPT WHICH SAW NF PERSONNEL ACTUALLY DOING ALL TASKS PERFORMED BY US NAVY OFFICERS AND MEN HAD BEEN EXCELLENT. CLEARLY NF WAS NOT PLANNING TO ACQUIRE FRIGATES IN NEAR FUTURE, BUT SIMPLY SEEING FIRST HAND HOW US NAVY SHIP IS ADMINISTERED AND RUN HAD BEEN MOST USEFUL FOR ALL CONCERNED. FROM POLITICAL
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SIDE, NF PERSONNEL WERE CLEARLY STRUCK BY COMPLETE RUN OF SHIP

WHICH GIVEN TO THEM. THIS BROUGHT HOME ALL THE MORE BY FACT ONE OF OJT OFFICERS WAS EGYPTIAN LIEUTENANT WHO HAD SPENT SOME TIME ON BOARD RUSSIAN SHIP IN DAYS WHEN EGYPTIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS WERE GOOD. ON THAT OCCASION HE HAD BEEN PERMITTED TO GO ONLY FROM WARDROOM TO BRIDGE AND BACK--AND EVEN ON BRIDGE ALMOST ALL GEAR WAS MASKED. CONTRAST WAS OBVIOUSLY STRIKING AND STORY HAS NOW MADE ROUNDS OF NF. FINALLY IN TERMS GOOD WILL, CMDR PEDEN IS CLEARLY CORRECT IN HIS POSITIVE ASSESSMENT REFTEL.

3. AS FOR FUTURE EXERCISES, AS INDICATED REFTEL NF IS INTERESTED IN REPEATING EXPERIENCE BASICALLY AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE, WITH CMDR TARIQ MENTIONING AT LEAST ONE CRUISE PER QUARTER. WHETHER THAT DEGREE OF FREQUENCY IS EVEN FEASIBLE IS, OF COURSE, MATTER FOR COMIDEASTFOR. CERTAINLY IN TERMS OF OUR OBJECTIVES AND EVEN FROM STANDPOINT OF TRAINING FOR LOCAL REPEAT LOCAL FORCES TWO OR AT MOST THREE OJT EXERCISES PER YEAR WOULD BE QUITE ADEQUATE. ON TRAINING SIDE, NFF AT PRESENT HAS GRAND TOTAL OF 4 OFFICERS AND 10 ENLISTED PERSONNEL WHO ARE FROM UAE. SOME TWENTY-SIX MORE LOCALS ARE NOW IN TRAINING IN EGYPT AND WILL RETURN AS OFFICERS NEXT SUMMER. BUT EVEN THEN, OJT EFFORT HERE OBVIOUSLY WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE SUBSTANTIAL ELEMENT OF TRAINING THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS; WHILE SCS IS UNAVOIDABLE FOR PRESENT, IT IS CLEARLY NOT OUR PRIME OBJECTIVE AND WE SEE NO REASON TO GO OUT OF OUR WAY TOWARD THIS END. FROM POLITICAL/BILATERAL RELATIONS STANDPOINT, THIS FIRST OJT EXERCISE MET MANY OF OUR OBJECTIVES IN TERMS OF DEMONSTRATING OUR WILLINGNESS TO BE OF ASSISTANCE AND GETTING BETTER FEEL FOR NF. BUT ONE MUST FRANKLY STATE THAT NF IS NOT OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE HERE--SOME 40 TO 50 OFFICERS AND 500 MEN OUT OF TOTAL ADDF STRENGTH OF UPWARDS OF 14,000. THERE IS OBVIOUSLY LIMIT TO RETURNS THAT CAN BE EXPECTED UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AND WE DO NOT WISH TO APPEAR TO BE OVERDOING NF WHILE IGNORING MORE SIGNIFICANT AIR AND LAND FORCES.

4. IN SHORT, WHILE WE WANT TO KEEP OJT CONCEPT MOVING, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF EXCELLENT BEGINNING ABOARD VALDEZ, AT SAME TIME WE WISH TO KEEP IT IN PERSPECTIVE. FOR OUR PART, WE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED--AND FORTUNATELY NF COMMANDER, COL. NABIL, AGREES--IN INSURING THAT OJT FOCUSES ON LOCAL MEMBERS OF NF. IN
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THIS CONNECTION, FOUR LOCAL OFFICERS ARE DUE BACK IN FEW DAYS, HAVING PARTICIPATED IN SAILING TWO NEW PATROL BOATS BACK FROM UK. THUS THEY PRESUMABLY WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR NEXT EXERCISE, PERHAPS ABOARD LASALLE IN CONJUNCTION WITH PORT VISIT SCHEDULED EARLY 1976. THEREAFTER IT MIGHT BE ADVISABLE TO WAIT UNTIL CADETS RETURN FROM EGYPT SO THAT WE WOULD HAVE MORE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH LOCAL OFFICERS. IN ANY CASE, ESTABLISHING PATTERN OF TWO AT MOST THREE SUCH EXERCISES PER YEAR STRIKES US AS SENSIBLE--

ASSUMING, OF COURSE, THAT THIS WOULD FIT WITH COMIDEASTFOR SCHEDULING AND OTHER COMMITMENTS.

5. I WISH TO EXPRESS THANKS FIRST TO COMIDEASTFOR FOR POSITIVE VEIN IN WHICH THIS ENTIRE EXERCISE WAS APPROACHED AND FLEXIBILITY DISPLAYED IN GETTING IT UNDERWAY, AND SECOND TO CMDR JOE PEDSEN, THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF VALDEZ FOR EXEMPLARY FASHION IN WHICH THEY CARRIED IT OUT.
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